

## **REMARKS**

Claims 6-9, 13, 32-36, and 41 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 10-11, 37, and 40 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-5, 10-12, 14-31, and 37-40 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101***

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101. As Claims 2-5, 10-12, and 14-31 depend from Claim 1, their rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 are therefore also believed to have been overcome.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103***

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 10-12, 14-19, 21-22, 26-28, 31, and 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konia (US 7,225,151) and Claims 20, 23-25, 29, 30, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konia in view of one or more additional references. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent Claims 1, 37, and 40 recite dividing a “total volume to be auctioned” into at least a “first non-zero volume” and a “second non-zero volume” to be awarded in a respective first and second auction round. In Konia, no such dividing of a total volume takes place. As none of the additional references cited by the Examiner describe this limitation, Claims 1, 37, and 40 are believed to be allowable.

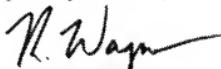
Regarding dependent Claims 2-5, 10-12, 14-31, and 38-39: As Applicants believe independent Claims 1, 37, and 40 are allowable, Applicants therefore also believe the foregoing dependent claims are allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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